

KARO ECHO Newsletter

December 2018 - January 2019

MEETINGS and NETS

The **KARO ECHO Net** meets on 146.415 MHz Simplex each Thursday evening immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but not before 1900 local time.

The West Contra Costa County ACS/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 145.110 MHz repeater (TX down 600 with PL 82.5) at 1845 local time.

The Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 3893 KHz at 1835 local time

KARO ECHO meets in person at 7:30 PM on the second Monday of each month at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707 in the Upper East Room. Ample parking is available. The next meeting is this coming **Monday, February 11, 2019**.

The December 2018 and January 2019 Minutes are on the website in the past events page. Thank you, Natalie KM6UCF.

EDUCATION and LICENSING

The **Benicia Amateur Radio Club (BARC)** will be holding a 1 day ham class and licensing session (Ham Cram) on Feb 2, 2019. See HYPERLINK "http://beniciaarc.com/wp/?page_id=8"

KARO ECHO and the **East Bay ARC (EBARC)** will jointly sponsor a Technicians class course beginning Wednesday, April 3, 2019. It will run for 10 weeks ending with a Technician Class exam from 6:30-9 pm. The class is free. The textbook is The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 4th Edition. Books will be available for purchase. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15. Please register by late March. More information will be forthcoming at HYPERLINK "<http://www.ko6no.com>" www.ko6no.com. Click to Register, or email: ko6no@comcast.net, or Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830. This class will be offered in El Cerrito at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. 94530

The **Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC)** also offers courses and exams. See <http://www.mdarc.org/activities/education/Classes> and <http://www.mdarc.org/activities/>

license-testing. Tests are offered at 6 pm before the MDARC regular meeting begins.

KARO ECHO HAPPENINGS

KARO ECHO has recently received sponsorship from the City of El Cerrito for fee-free use of their facilities for club activities, thanks to the diligent work of Howdy, KE6BEE.

KARO ECHO hopes to run a one-day Ham Cram, also at Arlington Park Clubhouse in early summer or late Spring, thus providing us adequate time to widely publicize it through local community newsletters, CERT groups, newspapers, and digital media outlets that cover our area.

This will be a recruitment push for needed new operators in Kensington and El Cerrito. Recruitment--as well as engaging our current and past members--should be seen as an essential ingredient and high priority if we are to reach our service potential.

Action Item: Become a Volunteer Examiner (VE) in the ARRL VEC program. Go to HYPERLINK "http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve" <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrl-ve> and take their free open book test to become a VE.

Simulated Emergency Test (SET) to be held Feb. 23, 2019 from 0930 -1230

There will be a **KARO ECHO Simulated Emergency Test (SET)** on February 23 running from 0930 to 1230 hours. We plan to run two SETs a year in order gain hands-on experience, test our equipment, and refine our procedures. The scenario is a 6.8 – 6.9 earthquake centered in Kensington under Fire Station 65. We will have members check in to the net at 0930 and NCS will dispatch operators to various portable/mobile sites such as the EOC and CERT Area Incident Command Posts (ICPs). Mock messages will be handed out to all participants at the next KARO ECHO Meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, you will be emailed the mock messages. Each participant will be given two time-stamped messages to send. All assignees will also receive at least two messages to copy.

Please let Don (HYPERLINK "mailto:ni6a@arrl.net" ni6a@arrl.net) if you can participate. **WE NEED MORE OPERATORS** in order to learn from this test. Requirements are: 1 portable radio, a mobile gain antenna, and a portable setup capable of battery/emergency power.

The general SET Plan can be found at HYPERLINK "https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o5gVcjiJt1AgHXnmtOgn0O2okmZWZaN1/view" <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o5gVcjiJt1AgHXnmtOgn0O2okmZWZaN1/view>

A chronological list of planned events can be found at HYPERLINK "https://drive.google.com/open?id=1giUAx8epCxAfajHyEmQM1m4wl6zdavry" [https://](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1giUAx8epCxAfajHyEmQM1m4wl6zdavry)

drive.google.com/open?id=1giUAx8epCxAFajHyEmQM1m4wl6zdavry

These two files will be updated often as Feb, 23 approaches and can be found on the <https://www.karooecho.net/events> page.

At this point the following members have volunteered:

Ken, WRCH945 KK6SRD

Jamuel WQYN969 KM6HBO

Larry WRCD625 KI6GIO KEN1

Don WQXJ891) NI6A

Jay WRAP287 KJ6WSS

Natalie KM6UCF

Karen, WRAP287 KK6ZPM

Howdy KE6BEE NCS

Hal KK6NDF

Mike KJ6BHX Relay and EC1

Armando KE6HCE

Mike KM6CXI EC9

EVENTS

Radio Mapping of CERT Areas

We plan to do extensive radio mapping of KE/EC radio hotspots and dead spots in the near future. This can be enhanced if members can check in to the Thursday night net from different mobile and/or portable locations. If you are mobile or portable, let the NCS know by checking in with your full phonetic callsign followed by the word portable or mobile. An example: "Whiskey Six Lima Kilo Echo mobile" or "Kilo Six Alpha Bravo Charlie portable". Net control will later ask for your specific location after the check-in procedure is completed.

Further **simplex mapping** to all other Kensington/El Cerrito CERT designated staging areas as well to the Fire Stations and EOC is planned as a future group activity. Please send Don HYPERLINK "mailto:ni6a@arrl.net" ni6a@arrl.net a message if you are willing to help.

Howdy, KE6BEE our net manager has established a regular NCS rotation. As all will testify, practice makes perfect. Our entire community will benefit from your proficiency. Please contact Howdy for net control assignments and procedures.

ELECTIONS and MEMBERSHIP

Hal, KK6NDF has been reelected as president, Larry, KK6GIO as treasurer, and Natalie, KM6UCF as secretary.

A constitution amendment was passed at the November meeting (see the KARO ECHO website) and a dues structure was instituted at the December meeting.

Dues are \$30 (\$40 for a family membership) yearly. This will help pay for our website, recruitment activities, our new post office box, and forthcoming non-profit incorporation process. Becoming a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization will allow KARO ECHO to receive grants and provide tax deductible write offs.

**Please send your checks made out to KARO ECHO to:
KARO ECHO -- P.O. Box 2025 -- El Cerrito, CA. 94530-3651**

Many thanks to Larry. KK6GIO, who has diligently accomplished this path for KARO ECHO.

Voting privileges are afforded to dues-paying licensed hams only, although anyone is welcome as a non-voting member and is invited to attend all meetings and events. Not to worry if you cannot afford dues at this time.

Rob, K6RJM, has put together a binder for each of our KARO ECHO installed communications sites. Each binder contains ICS-213 forms, a radio and site operations crib sheet, a net Control Station Operations Sheet, a net log (ICS-309), the revised KARO ECHO Field Resources Operations Handbook, an annotated 2m and 70cm simplex frequency list, pencils, erasers, etc. The Kensington sites were so stocked and maintenance performed at the KCC, Hilltop School, and Fire Station 65 by Marian KC6OBK, Jerry K6KOP, and Rob K6RJM.

ELMERING

Don is available for **Elmering/Mentoring**.

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature.

GMRS/FRS

KARO ECHO currently has five licensed GMRS/Ham operators; but more are desired in order to provide a parallel network to ease congestion on our ham bands. Contact the FCC for information on getting your GMRS license and check out our webpage at [HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/frsgmrs" https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/frsgmrs](https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/frsgmrs)

Berkeley CERT and Inter-Neighborhood Network (BeCERTAINN) will be presenting at the January 31 Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network (BDPNN) meeting at

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists (BFUU). Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the BFUU Fellowship Hall, corner of Cedar and Bonita. The topic will be the use of GMRS radio for disaster services.

KARO ECHO is planning to sponsor a FRS/GMRS workshop for all citizens in the Richmond-Berkeley area at the Arlington Park Clubhouse in March. Stay tuned for specifics.

KAROECHO.NET WEBSITE

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page ([HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/events"](https://www.karoecho.net/events) <https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at [HYPERLINK "https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/"](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>

TRAINING GROUP WORK ACTIVITY

Rob has written an excellent “Getting Started” guide for new hams on our web page. See [HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/get-involved/getting-started"](https://www.karoecho.net/get-involved/getting-started) <https://www.karoecho.net/get-involved/getting-started>

Also please fill out the JOIN form if you have not done so previously. Find it as a drop down menu under “Get Involved” See [HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/join"](https://www.karoecho.net/join) <https://www.karoecho.net/join>

A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: [HYPERLINK "https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view"](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>

Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-duddy world is at [HYPERLINK "https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view"](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view

Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay.

For newbies, please visit [HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training"](https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training)

<https://www.karooecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!

On every Thursday evening net there will be a training session and/or discussion. Summaries of recent net events are found under our past events page at HYPERLINK "<https://www.karooecho.net/events/past-events>" <https://www.karooecho.net/events/past-events>

Our Portable and Mobile Capabilities Have Been Enhanced

A portable 50 watt 2 m/70 cm radio station equipped with Anderson Powerpole connectors, including a deep cycle 12v AGM battery, a folding tripod mast stand, a high gain portable antenna, coax has been equipped for portable operations designed to be capable of communicating anywhere in our KARO ECHO region. Thanks to Kevin, KI6KNP, this project has reached its final (almost) stage of completion and is ready to be deployed anywhere in KE. We need a few hams willing to set up portable or mobile stations to test a few remote Kensington/El Cerrito locations in order to verify RF coverage. If you might be available on a weekend for an hour or two please send an email to HYPERLINK "<mailto:NI6A@ARRL.NET>" NI6A@ARRL.NET

We also need more volunteers for our **Technical Maintenance Committee** (maintain equipment installations, fix, and install new equipment) at all agency installations. Thanks to Mike, KM6CXI, Jamuel KM6HBO, Jerry K6KOP, Marian KC6OBK, Hal KK6NDF and Rob K6RJM who have been helping out. We can use more team members. Job description is to maintain present radio and antenna installations of KARO ECHO equipment.

Note: See the **KARO ECHO Agenda** for our upcoming Monday, Feb 11, 2019 Meeting see: HYPERLINK "<https://www.karooecho.net/events>" <https://www.karooecho.net/events> the agenda will be made available no later than the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.

Also all recent KARO ECHO **Minutes** will be found at our **Past Events page** HYPERLINK "<https://www.karooecho.net/events/past-events.Past>" <https://www.karooecho.net/events/past-events.Past>. Newsletters are on the Documents Page.

The KARO ECHO **Net Control Protocol and Net Log** (for Net Control Stations, rev). has been revised as of November 2018. Please make sure that you have the current version. See: HYPERLINK "https://docs.google.com/document/d/14t56EyuLyaZnp_UwjGkxldX65RSdjlgl1FSyD5zKbghg/edit" https://docs.google.com/document/d/14t56EyuLyaZnp_UwjGkxldX65RSdjlgl1FSyD5zKbghg/edit

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email Don, ni6a@arrl.net

73, Don, NI6A, (for Rob, K6RJM who is on a well-deserved vacation).

